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ABSTRACT

This book is an attempt to express rudimentary "first principles" in the application of democratic values to some of the most pressing issues inherent in the advent of a new information society. Its purpose is not to advance any particular political slant, but rather, to incorporate a balance of democratic values--libertarian, communitarian, egalitarian, and belief in market solutions--to the topics of: (1) the process of communication; (2) issues of privacy; and (3) information as property. The principles enunciated in this volume seek to identify responsibilities of governments, of individuals, and of corporate citizens to balance the American Bill of Rights. Following an introduction to rights, responsibilities, and the nature of information, and presentation of the Information Bill of Rights and Responsibilities with commentary, the background papers are: "Communication Rights" (Terry Curtis and Jorge Reina Schement); "Comments Regarding 'Communication Rights'" (Thomas Freebairn); "Privacy Rights and Responsibilities in the Next Era of the Information Age" (Alan F. Westin); "The Role of Theory in the Policy Process" (Oscar H. Gandy, Jr.); "Forging a Wider Consensus: Property Rights in Electronic Information Systems" (Donna A. Demac); and "Continuity, Contract, and Government Copyright: A Response to Donna Demac's Paper on Property Rights in Electronic Information Systems" (Steven J. Metalitz). Two appendices provide a list of conference participants and the text only of the Information Bill of Rights and Responsibilities. (MAS)

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